

# Hickory reigns as AA king

The Hornets prove dreams do come true

By JAMES PHILLIPS  
Sports Writer

MIDDLETOWN, Pa. — Dreams and goals are for those who believe.

Early in the 1989 season, Hickory High football coach Guy Gibbs said his goal was to win the Class AA state championship.

Many people scoffed at such an idea. But the man never wavered in his belief, and neither did his team and coaching staff.

"Our goal was to become the state champions in AA football. We believed it and we achieved it. It was a team dream and it came true," said Gibbs, tears welling in his eyes. "I love the Lord; He has been with us since the beginning of the season to this moment. We are definitely blessed in Hermitage."

Hickory was especially blessed to have senior standout Andre Coleman, whose efforts and both offense and defense sparked the Hornets to the PIAA state championship with a 30-22 triumph over the previously unbeaten Montourville Warriors Saturday at Middletown High School Stadium.

The Hornets, 12-2, defeated three previously undefeated teams on their road to the state title — Fort LeBoeuf, Steel Valley and the Warriors, 14-1.

Coleman rushed for a career-high 246 yards and scored 4 touchdowns on 26 carries. He ended his brilliant career at Hickory with 2,173 yards and 37 touchdowns this season. In his 2-year career at Hickory Coleman has amassed 3,710 yards.

That one-year rushing mark is the second best in Mercer County history behind former Reynolds ace Ron Park (2,174).

Coleman, "Mr. Impact" as he is called by Gibbs, gave the Hornets the momentum for the second half with a dazzling running play just before intermission.

The Hornets had the ball on the Montourville 1-yard line with 8 seconds left after senior quarterback Kevin Rauch hit senior end Kerry Boldish with a 45-yard completion. But the Hornets had already used their final timeout and had to hurry to the line of scrimmage to get a play off.

Hickory was hit with a 5-yard illegal-procedure penalty because they weren't set, moving the ball back at the 6-yard line with 4 ticks left.

Coleman took the pitch, went right, and was surrounded by three Warrior players. He cut back left, avoided two would-be tacklers, and zipped into the left corner of the endzone for the touchdown to cut the lead to 15-13.

"He always seems to make things happen," said Gibbs. "He has done everything we've asked of him and he is such a great person, a leader on the off the field."

Besides the outstanding 6-yard dash, Coleman had touchdown runs of 3, 35 and 66 yards. He also had the game-ending interception at the Hornets 7-yard line on Montourville's last ditch effort to tie the game.

The Warriors were paced by senior quarterback Mark Mussina, who connected on 21 of 30 for an outstanding 315 yards and a touchdown. He was intercepted three times, twice by Kevin Cromarti. Junior back Jamie Ott, a 1,000-yard rusher, scored twice for the Warriors.

The Hornets got on the board first after Montourville's first possession ended when Cromarti picked off a Mussina pass at the Warriors 24.

Five plays later, Coleman scored on a 3-yard run around right end. Senior Scott Baker booted the point-after-touchdown and with 8:49 left in the first quarter, Hickory led, 7-0.

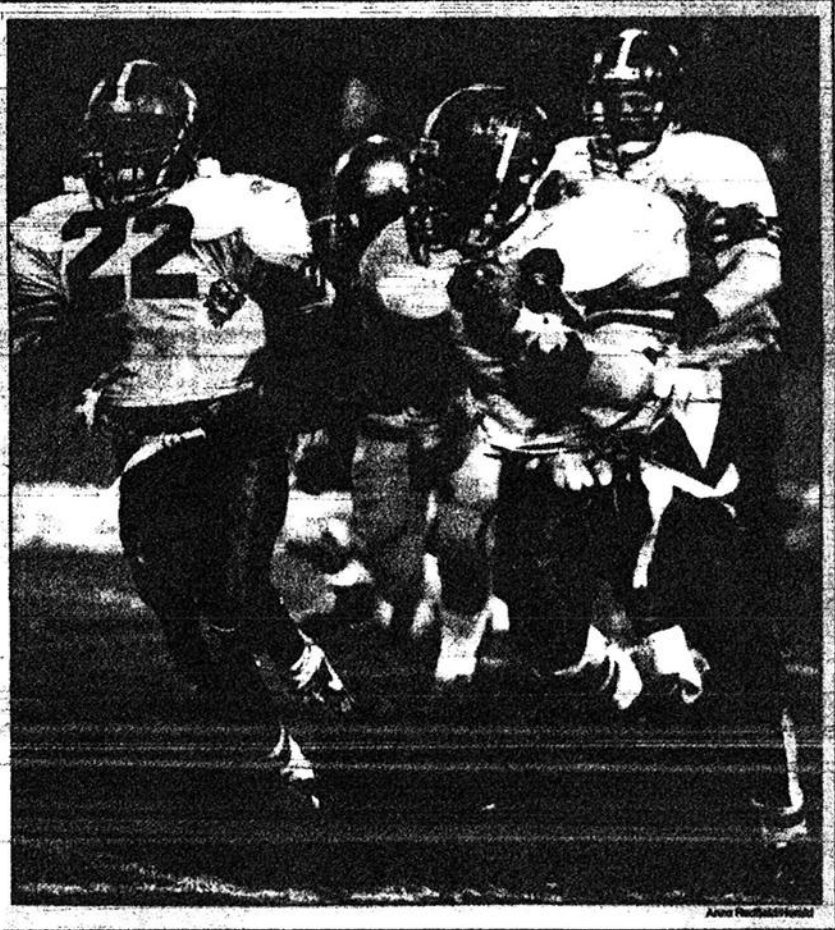
Coleman carried the ball 4 of 5



Tears flow during an emotional postgame address from Coach Guy Gibbs to the new champions

## Man on a mission

Hickory High's superb running back Andre Coleman follows blocker Kerry Boldish for a big gain during action in the state championship game. Coleman, a senior, ran for 246 yards and four touchdowns Saturday in sparking the Hornets to a 30-22 victory over Montourville for the PIAA Class AA championship. Coleman upped his season rushing total to 2,173 yards — second-best ever in Mercer County by only 1 yard to former Reynolds great Ron Park, who amassed 2,174. Coleman also finished with a career rushing total of 3,710, second only to Park's 4,537. He finished the season with 37 touchdowns.



# Vikings in control in NFC Central; Oilers pull

By The Associated Press

The big, bad Chicago Bears are no longer big — just bad.

The Bears' bid for a sixth straight NFC Central Division title ended Sunday when the Detroit Lions beat

## NFL

### roundup

West tonight with a victory over the

yard TD run. Kansas City sacked Green Bay's Don Majkowski four times and intercepted him once.

Eagles 20, Cowboys 10

Randall Cunningham passed for 170 yards and a touchdown. NFL

while the Dolphins' defense, third worst in the NFL, against the rush, limited New England's John Stephens to 20 yards in 10 carries.

Buffalo has beaten Miami twice, the first tie-breaker. But the Dol-

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# Hickory

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the halftime buzzer. The 2-point pass from Rauch to Boldish was too high and the Hornets went into the dressing room trailing 15-13.

"That's what I'm talking about when I say that Andre makes things happen," said Gibbs about Coleman's cut-back TD run. "He had to run 100 yards just to get 6 yards for the touchdown. That was one of the turning points of the game. It gave us momentum going into the second half. Halftime was gut-check time for us. We realized what we were up against and focused on our goal."

"One of our strongest points this year has been making adjustments at halftime with my coaching staff (Bill Oakley, Bill Bell, Bill Brest, Hank Zimmerman, Steve Moser). They have an outstanding ability in instructing our players on the changes they have to make."

On Hickory's opening possession of the second half, the Warriors' Edsell intercepted a Rauch pass at the Montoursville 15 to stop a drive. But the Hornets came right back and forced a fumble at the Warriors' 35.

Baker nailed Rick Hagemeyer after he caught a 4-yard pass from Mussina and senior Kevin Trapp recovered the fumble for Hickory.

On the next play from scrimmage, Coleman broke off right tackle and sprinted 35 yards for the touchdown. Coleman then added the 2-point conversion and with 3:33 left, Hickory jumped to a 21-15 advantage.

Before Coleman's TD, Gibbs deployed some strategy and switched shoes with Coleman, who was having some trouble with the footing at the start of the second half because the field was freezing.

"In 15 years of coaching, I've never taken off my shoes to help bring a victory," said Gibbs. "Andre came out and said it was like an ice skating rink out there, so we changed shoes (Gibbs had on turf shoes.) That made a difference for him. God bless my shoes on Coleman's feet."

Montoursville answered the score in two plays after getting the ball at its 33 after the ensuing kickoff. On the third play at the 44, Mussina faded back and hit Hagemeyer for a 56-yard touchdown pass down the right side. Barnes' PAT kick gave the Warriors a 22-21 advantage with 2:11 left in the third quarter.

The Hornets came right back to take the lead for good after receiving the ball at their 45.

With Coleman carrying the ball 5 times on the drive, the Hornets marched to the Warrior 8. But Rauch was sacked by senior Abe Hedgcock for a 10-yard loss at the 18. On third down, Coleman attempted a halfback pass but Boldish, who was wide open in the end zone, slipped on the frozen turf and fell.

Baker then came in and booted a 35-yard field straight and true with 1:08 left in the game to give the Hornets a 24-22 lead.

The Warriors got the ball on their 18 and drove down field to the Hickory 5. An apparent 5-yard touchdown pass from Mussina to Edsell was called back because of a clipping penalty, setting the ball at Montoursville's 27.

Barnes came in to attempt a 37-yard field goal with 3:34 left but the kick was wide and the drive went for naught.

The clinching touchdown came at the 2:30 mark after the Hornets got the ball at the 20 after the missed field goal.

On the fifth play of the drive at the 34, Coleman swept left end and sprinted 66 yards for the touchdown. The PAT kick was no good, but the Hornets held a 30-22 lead.

The Warriors made a last ditch effort to rally, driving from their 24 to the Hickory 18. A key sack by junior Mike Scott on Mussina put the ball back at the Hornets 28.

On a 4th-and-16 play, Mussina was picked off by Coleman to end the threat and bring home a state championship to Hermitage.

The 13 seniors, who Gibbs provided great leadership all season long, are: Rauch, Coleman, Cromarti, Baker (No. 2 rated kicker in AA), Boldish, Jon Rocci, John McConnell, Kevin Trapp, Dan Hanson, Steve Davidson, Pierre Hubbard (who is still hospitalized because of pneumonia), Bill Hipkins and Rocky Vadala.

"All of them are the main reasons we are state champions today," said Gibbs. "I can go on and on about each and every one of them and I love them all. They are all leaders and have provided it both on and off the field. As a coach it's great to see the love between teammates, the band, cheerleaders and community of Hermitage."

## Browns beaten by Colts

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The Indianapolis Colts stayed alive when Cleveland missed a pair of field goal attempts and beat the Browns 23-17 Sunday on Mike Prie's 58-yard interception return in overtime.

"It was kind of scary. I figured the game was over," the Colts' safety said. "It didn't seem like the field goals were too long, and they just barely missed. It gave us new life."

Cleveland's Matt Bahr missed the field goal tries that could have given the Browns the victory, including a 35-yard attempt with 6:06 to go in the overtime period.

"We were in a good position," Bahr said. "There was no factor other than I missed. The holds were good, the snaps were good. The frustrating part of it was I let myself down, but more importantly, I let the team down."

The Colts (7-7) were forced to punt two minutes after Bahr's second miss, but Prior intercepted Bernie Kosar's pass and ran in with the winning touchdown.

"It seemed farther than 58 yards," Prior said. "After I caught it, I just looked up to see if anybody was around me and to see how tough it would be to get in. The next thought was just to get in the end zone."

"I can't believe we won this game," Prior said. Bahr also missed a 39-yard attempt with 25 seconds left in regulation, forcing the overtime.

"I thought we were in good shape," Cleveland coach Bud Carson said. "I thought we were as far in as we needed to be with Matt. What can you say? I thought we were in a sure-shot position but, I don't know, it just wasn't to be."

Another interception off Kosar, by Keith Taylor, was returned 77 yards and set up the Colts' tying touchdown late in regulation.

"We had so many shots. It was a tough, tough game to lose," Carson said.

Kosar passed for a season-high 353 yards as the Browns dropped to 7-6-1, including 0-3-1 in the last four games. The Browns lead the NFL in overtime games this season, but are 0-2-1 in those contests.

Indianapolis tied the game 17-17 with 1:56 to go after Taylor returned an interception from 2 yards deep in the Colts' end zone to the Cleveland 25. With Tom Ramsey at quarterback in place of injured Jack Trudeau, the Colts reached the Cleve-

land 1 in seven plays and scored the tying touchdown as Ramsey flipped a pass to tight end Pat Beach at the back of the end zone.

The Browns had taken a 17-7 lead early in the second half when Keith Jones blocked a punt by the Colts' Robn Stark and Lawyer Tillman recovered the ball in the Indianapolis end zone. The Colts got a 35-yard field goal by Dean Biasucci midway through the period, but Trudeau, who suffered a season-ending knee injury against the Browns' early last year, left the game on the next possession with a concussion.

Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis said Trudeau had been admitted and was in general satisfactory condition.

After the interception by Taylor, which gave him a Colts' season record of 225 return yards on seven interceptions, the Browns had a chance to win in regulation. Four straight passes by Kosar took Cleveland to the Indianapolis 34 but five plays later, Bahr missed the 39-yard field goal attempt.

The Browns trailed 7-0 after one quarter, the 10th time in 14 games their offense was shut out in the opening period this season, and twice lost the ball on fumbles.

The first one, on their first possession of the game, ended a drive at the Indianapolis 18. The second fumble, late in the first quarter, came on a completed pass to Webster Slaughter, who had the ball wrestled from his hands by Prior.

Indianapolis couldn't take advantage of either turnover, however, and the Browns started their first touchdown drive from their own 20 with a minute left in the opening quarter. Passes of 20 yards to Eric Metoalf and 15 yards to Tim Manoa helped Cleveland to the Indianapolis 28 early in the second quarter, then Metoalf ran twice, scoring from the 12.

The Colts reached the Cleveland 35 late in the half, but a 53-yard field goal attempt by Biasucci was no good and the Browns took over with 24 seconds to go. Three straight passes to Manoa, Reggie Langhorne and Gerald McNeil took Cleveland to the Indianapolis 30, and Bahr kicked a 48-yard field goal as time expired for a 10-7 halftime lead.

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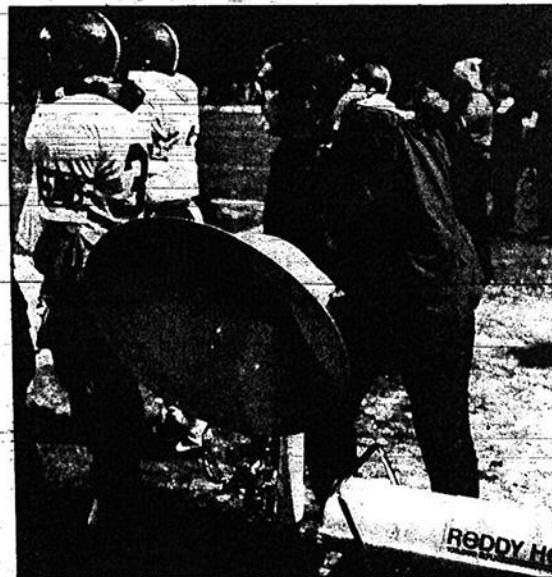
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### How cold was it?

It was so cold at the PIAA Class AA state championship football game that Bob Robich of Hermitage had to thaw out a frozen tuba behind the team bench. Several of the Hickory High band's instruments had to be thawed before their team's halftime performance.

## Magic stuns Lakers

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Playoff teams don't scare the Orlando Magic. The expansion team hasn't been in the NBA long enough to know better.

The Magic, down 14 points midway through the fourth quarter, rallied to beat the Los Angeles Lakers 108-103 Sunday night with a game-winning shot by a Magic player.

## Steelers shut out Jets

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—If the Pittsburgh Steelers were looking for a boost—the kind that could boost them right into the playoffs—the New York Jets might have provided it.

The Steelers got their first shut-out in more than four years when they beat the Jets 13-0 Sunday. Greg Lloyd was the one-man wrecking crew with an interception, a sack, a hit that knocked starting quarterback Pat Ryan from the game and a few emotional responses ranging from arm-pumping to break dancing.

York's first play and was leveled by Thomas Everett. Ryan began hearing the bells on the next possession when he was rammed into by Lloyd. Even Lloyd thought it might have been a late hit, but no penalty was called.

"That's what I'm going to do," Lloyd said. "When I get a chance to hit like that, good things will happen."

"I thought he was across the line of scrimmage and anything goes. He's just like a running back. I could have pulled up. I was a little concerned. No one is out there to really